



Open Championship Winner



Nathan Richardson



Barry Isles and Rex Richardson

The Sultans of Swing once again very generously sponsored this popular event with plenty of others assisting with its smooth running.

This years winner was Nathan Richardson with a score Gross 72 Handicap 3 Nett 69

Interested onlookers on the day were Barry Isles and Rex Richardson.

St Helens Trip

Recently 16 Thirlstane Vets travelled to St Helens for the annual Vets Tournament. Most arrived a day early opting for a familiarising game. Unfortunately this was of no assistance as most struggled to play near their handicap. With a big drop in slope rating, players were 4-5 strokes under their regular handicap but this did not help their scores! Only two players scored over 30 points with Joe Scavo the only player to finish in the prizes.

Replace Divots

Repair Pitch Marks

No cigarette Butts on the Course

President's Report

Greens Coring

The greens are scheduled for coring using the mini tynes on April 14. This will mean social golf will be restricted on that day. It is expected that this process will not result in significant disruption to the playing surface of the greens.

Golf Connect

Last year we were notified that Golf Australia was privatising the handicap program, scheduled to occur in December. The process has been delayed significantly and we are waiting to hear when the transition to Golf Connect will occur. Once the new system is in place members will be advised of actions required to be able to access their handicap details.

Bereavements

The club has been saddened by the loss of two members recently. Paul Dentler joined us 6 years ago and battled illness in recent times. Paul was a regular competitor and always had a smile on his face, regardless of his golfing form! Bobby Watts passed away suddenly a fortnight ago. Bobby was our oldest playing



Club members forming a guard of honour at Bobby's funeral

member and was a regular competitor with the Veterans and Saturday competitions. His cheeky and witty nature will be missed. We pass on our condolences to Paul and Bobby's families.

Roger Eadie

President

Fairways Upgrade

Commencing on Monday 5th May 2025 some of the volunteer group will be commencing the installation of 4 new sprinklers to the green end of the 2nd/11th fairway, 4 new sprinklers on the tee bed end of the 9th/18th fairway and 7 smaller sprinklers across the 6th/15th fairway between the dams.

It is anticipated that these works will all be completed by Friday 9th May. There will be some GUR areas, machinery and volunteers on the course, but we ask for your co-operation whilst we carry out these installations to further improve our beautiful golf course.

We will not be working on the main areas of the course on normal competition days, but do intend working on the course on Monday 5th and Thursday 8th and possibly Friday morning 9th and will have some fairways closed at times during these days.

These works will green up these currently dry areas and make the course even better to play and enhance the appearance of these fairways.

Once again we thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Neville Smith

Master Builders Day

On Friday 28th March 43 golfers from all over the state participated at Thirlstane Golf Club for our third MBA event for this calendar year.

The weather was beautiful, the course magnificent (as usual) and visiting golfers all complimented us on the condition of the course.

We thank our sponsors Fairbrothers, Rapid Supply P/L and Mitre Ten for sponsoring this event. Winners on the day were as follows:

Best MBA score of the day Chris Erands 38 points.

Division 1: Rod Simpson 37 points, Rod Edwards 35 points.

Division 2: Neville Smith 37 points on a count back from Tony Bennett 37 points.

Division 3: Sam Vickers 35 points, Tony Dick 33 points.

Visitors: Matt Bransden 38 points, Garry Beaton 35 points.

We also had 8 nearest the pin awards and one longest putt for the day.

Thanks go to Ben Smith, Tony Dick, Mike Rataj and Roger Eadie for helping organise the day, John Crawford for cooking the BBQ and special thanks to Lorraine Smith for a beautiful morning and afternoon tea and for helping John Crawford with the BBQ.

The MBA day at Thirlstane is considered one of the best MBA days for the calendar year and we enjoy showing our course to our fellow golfers.

This day is a great fundraiser for TGC and we also give Master Builders Golf Tasmania a generous donation on the day.

Neville Smith.

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Course Ranger's Report

Not a great deal to report since my last column. I'm happy to say that over the last month there seems to be less divots that need to be fixed. Maybe this is because less green fee players this time of the year but we must keep this up as the course is looking in great condition thanks again to all the maintenance guys. I would like to see golfers picking up their broken tees on the tea beds the wooden ones not so bad but the plastic ones do impact the mower blades.

It's an ongoing battle regarding sand buckets and that all players need to carry one and use them when required. The new signs up around the start of the first tee and beside the sixth hole leave no doubt what is required. Members are asked not exceed the 2 balls when practising around the course. Please use the practice fairway.

Be aware that Sundays pennant teams playing at home will require to have the course closed from 9am to around 1-30pm. Check notice board for up to date info.



We Welcome These New Members

Full Members

Stephen Lucas, Terry Hall, Julia Shepherd, Geoffrey Pile

Junior Members

Hudson Bennett, Oliver Bennett

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Thirlstane Thistles Trip To Barham And Numurkah

On the 16th of March Rev, Dago, Wazza, Leonie, Brett, Karen, Henry and his wife Janene, Ozzie, Wombat, Chris, Me, Bill, and Kevin W boarded the Spirit of Tasmania(1) and set sail to Geelong (after a few frothies at the Argosy). We were also joined on the trip by Keith and Carol two of Paul's friends from South Australia.

Next morning after a 4 hour plus trip for most of us, a wee bit longer for some others, we arrived at Barham and played 18 holes as a bit of a loosen up after the trip up. The next day we had a round at Cohuna, a lovely course not far from Barham. Karen prevailed on the day, which would be good form for the following day's event.

The next day was the first round of the Brian Youd Memorial played at Barham, with Karen keeping up the good form and prevailing with a fine score of 35 points. Presentations and a barby were held on Thursday, and then off to Numurkah on the Friday.

On Sunday at Numurkah the 4 ball Ambrose was held with Wazza, Leonie, Dago and Rev retaining the trophy won last year. The following day was the final day of Brian Youd Memorial, whilst Karen did not win on the day she did enough to win the trophy and the Green Jacket. The ladies (whoops sorry women) reigned supreme Leonie being the runner up.

Another time honoured trophy is the Horses A*!#(censored by the editor of this mast head). This trophy is awarded for any ethical or politically incorrect conduct during the trip. This year Chris had a head start as he did not bring the trophy he won the previous year. Chris duly saluted the judge and has the honour of back to back trophies.

Whilst the above is a summary of the competitions for the trip, I can assure you that if I attempted to list all that went on this summary would be the size of War and Peace, and besides I have been assured by some very influential people on the trip that what happens on the trip stays on the trip.

This year Paul the organiser of these trips for many years, could not attend due to ill health. Rev volunteered to stand in for Paul and I stood in for Rev as Sheriff, a very important position, in fining members for any misdemeanours thus raising revenue to pay for prizes. Whilst Rev and I were happy that we completed our duties satisfactorily we were nowhere near as competent as our predecessors.

In finishing I would like to mention the hospitality and friendship we were shown at both Barham and Numurkah.

Hit em long and straight

Biff



Pennant

The pennant season is well under way with the women fielding a Division 2 team and a Division 3 team. Division 2 had a win at home over Devonport 4 - 1 and Division 3 had a 2 - 3 loss to Seabrook.

Thirlstane is fielding 3 teams in the North West Golf Tasmania Pennant. Division 2, Division 3 and Division 6. All teams are doing well with 3 wins last week. We wish all those participating the very best of luck.

Women's Golf and Other Activities

A busy month of golf with Country Week being the main event. Twelve travelled and stayed in Launceston and played a single event on the Monday and a Foursomes event on the Tuesday at the very challenging Launceston Golf Club. Most found the course difficult but enjoyed the experience.

Before golf got underway we treated ourselves out to the Princess Theatre to enjoy Billy Elliot the Musical. Not Billy Idol as one who won't be mentioned thought.

Penguin's Food for Health day was well supported and we also had representatives at Senior Women's in George Town.



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Bigguns vs Littluns



Mike Matthewson and Mike Smith

Well done to Captain Mike Matthewson and vice Captain Kieth Cock on their victory over the Littluns.

Bigguns defeated the Littluns 1401 to 1339. Tristan Raynor and Mark Hayes had the best score of the day with 74 points .



Tristan and Mark

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